



CRICKHOWELL
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1964

CRICKHOWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1 9 6 4.

Chairman of the Council	- Councillor Miss M.A. Haywood, J.P.
Vice-Chairman	- Councillor Col. C.E. Beckwith.
Chairman of the Public Health & General Purposes Committee	- Councillor Col. C.E. Beckwith.
Vice-Chairman	- Councillor G. Bush.

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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

COUNCILLORS.

Miss M.A. Haywood, J.P.

D.S. Davies.

Col. C.E. Beckwith.

G. Bush.

G. Morgan.

H.J. McIntosh.

D.W. Bevan.

The Rev. A. Reed.

B. Rees.

J. Mills Price.

Mrs. B.L. Greet.

C.S. Farr.

F.E. Parry.

E. Davies.

The Rev. J.M. Evans.

W.R. Winstanley.

PARISH.

Crickhowell.

Crickhowell.

Partrishow.

Llanelly. (Gilwern Ward)

Llanelly. (Gilwern Ward)

Llanelly. (Clydach Ward)

Llanelly. (Darenfelen Ward)

Llangattock.

Llangattock.

Cwmdu.

Cwmdu.

Llangynidr.

Llangynidr.

Llanbedr.

Llangenny.

Llangenny.

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To: The Chairman and Members of the
Crickhowell Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances of the district, the health of the people and the work of the Public Health Department, during the year 1964.

I wish to tender my thanks to the Members of the Council for their helpful consideration and co-operation in all matters affecting Public Health. Also, the Officers of the Council for their help in all matters appertaining to the duties of the Health Department.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient Servant.

CREIGHTON E. EDWARDS.
B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1964.

Medical Officer of Health	- C.E. Edwards, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Surveyor & Public Health Inspector	- R.A. Jackson, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. Cert. (Meat and Foods)
Housing Inspector	- M.A. Thomas.



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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

<u>Population:-</u>	(Registrar General's estimate)	7,880.
<u>Number of Parishes:-</u>		8.
<u>Acreage:-</u>	According to 1961 census.	46,140 acres.
<u>Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1964:-</u>		£147,696.
<u>Product of a Penny Rate:-</u>	Actual 1963/64	£569.3.10d.
	Actual 1964/65	£589.15.11d.
<u>Rate in the Pound:-</u>	1963/64	12.8d.
	1964/65	13.8d.
<u>Water Rate:-</u>	1/9d. in the £ with a minimum of £1.10.0d. per annum.	
<u>Number of domestic dwellings (including farms):-</u>		2,405.
<u>Number of Council Houses (included in above figure):-</u>		450.

Crickhowell is a large District in South Breconshire, mainly mountainous in character, with an acreage of 46,140 acres.

The District is divided into eight Parishes, Crickhowell, Llangattock, Cwmdu, Llangenny, Llangynidr, Llanbedr and Partrishow, which are mainly agricultural, and Llanelly which is mainly industrial. In the agricultural area the workers are employed mainly in farm work, forestry and quarrying. In the industrial area, the workers are employed mainly in adjacent coalmines in North Monmouthshire, and Elvicta Handtools Factory in Crickhowell. The District also supplies labour to the British Nylon Spinners Ltd., Pontypool, Richard Thomas & Baldwins Ltd., Steelworks, Ebbw Vale, and the Glascoed Ordnance Factory, Usk.

The re-housing of families from unfit dwellings continues together with applicants from the ordinary lists in cases of hardship, illness and overcrowding.

Tenants are selected with the assistance of a Points Scheme adopted by the Council so as to allocate houses to families in the greatest need, conditions of existing accommodation, overcrowding and health circumstances, all rating for "points award".

When Council houses are allocated to applicants their old houses are inspected with a view to their future use being considered. These houses, if they are unfit for human habitation and cannot be repaired at reasonable expense, are then covered by a Demolition Order or Closing Order.

HOUSING - DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS.

	<u>1964</u> <u>figures.</u>	<u>1963</u> <u>figures.</u>
Unfit dwellings added to the 'unfit' list during the year 1964.	3	4
Unfit houses closed or demolished under the Housing Act, 1957, in the year 1964 (including the dwellings vacated in Crickhowell that were covered by the 1937 Clearance Orders).	9	15
Number of applicants for Council Houses on 1st January, 1964.	133	130
Number of applicants remaining on the Council's list 31st December, 1964.	131	133
Total number of post-war Council Houses 1st January, 1964.	450	438
Number of Council Houses completed during the year 1964.	12	30
Number of Council Houses under construction on 31st December, 1964.	32	12
Number of Private Houses completed during the year 1964.	69	48

School Medical Service, Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, and the provision of school meals are carried out by the County Council.

The health of the district during the year has been good. The incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been low during the year.

There have been no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year. Inspections have been carried out from time to time of various food handling shops, bake-houses, licensed premises and shops selling ice-cream in accordance with the Regulations. Minor defects have been pointed out and corrected. It has not been necessary to take any legal proceedings under the Food and Drugs Act, or under the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

No action has been necessary under this Section during the year 1964.

SECTION A.

	Crickhowell R.D.C.			Breconshire C. Council.
<u>BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
No. of legitimate Live Births.	67	66	133	813
No. of illegitimate Live Births.	6	6	12	48
Total Live Births.	73	72	145	861
Birth Rate per 1000 Population 1964.			18.4	15.85
Registrar General's Comparability Factor.			1.10	N/A
No. of Still Births Legitimate.	2	2	4	17
No. of Still Births Illegitimate.	-	-	-	-
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births.			8.2	5.57
Total Live and Still Births.	75	74	149	878
Still Birth Rate per 1000 Live and Still Births.			26.8	19.36
<u>DEATHS.</u>				
Total Deaths for District.	46	43	89	742
Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the population.			11.3	13.65
Registrar General's Comparability Factor.			1.00	N/A
Corrected Death Rate.			11.3	N/A
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY.</u>				
Deaths from Maternal Causes.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 Live and Still Births.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S .
(Continued).

	Crickhowell R.D.C.			Breconshire C. Council.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	
<u>INFANT MORTALITY.</u>				
Deaths of Infants under 1 years of age:-				
Legitimate.	3	3	6	30
Illegitimate.	-	-	-	-
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 Live Births:-				
Total.			41.3	34.84
Legitimate.			45.1	36.90
Illegitimate.			-	-
<u>NEO NATAL MORTALITY.</u>				
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:-				
Legitimate.	3	2	5	20
Illegitimate.	-	-	-	-
Total.	3	2	5	20
Neo Natal Mortality Rate per 1000 Live Births:-			34.4	22.06
<u>EARLY NEO NATAL MORTALITY.</u>				
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age:-				
Legitimate.	2	2	4	17
Illegitimate.		-	-	-
Total.	2	2	4	17
Early Neo Natal Mortality Rate per 1000 Live Births:-			27.5	19.74
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE.</u>				
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age plus No. of Still Births:-				
No. of Deaths under 1 week of age.	2	2	4	17
No. of Still Births.	2	2	4	17
Perinatal Mortality Rate:-			53.69	38.71
<u>CANCER DEATHS.</u>				
No. of Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	6	4	10	104
Cancer Death Rate.			1.27	1.91

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
1. Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	-	-
2. Tuberculosis (Other Form).	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease.	-	-
4. Diphtheria.	-	-
5. Whooping Cough.	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections.	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-
8. Measles.	-	-
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases.	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	2	-
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	1	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast.	-	-
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus.	-	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	3	2
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia.	-	-
16. Diabetes.	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	4	7
18. Coronary disease, angina.	13	6
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	-	1
20. Other heart diseases.	8	11
21. Other circulatory disease.	2	1
22. Influenza.	-	-
23. Pneumonia.	-	4
24. Bronchitis.	4	-
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis.	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	4	5
33. Motor vehicle accidents.	1	-
34. All other accidents.	2	1
35. Suicide.	-	1
36. Homicide and operations of war.	-	-
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ALL CAUSES =	46	43
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SECTION B.

PUBLIC ANALYST:

Dr. G.V. James, M.B.E.,
69, Dock Street,
Newport, Mon.
(Newport 63035)

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
SERVICE:

Dr. H.D. Gray,
The Public Health Laboratories,
Clytha Square,
Newport, Mon.
(Newport 65431)

AMBULANCE FACILITIES:

The Breconshire County Council
Ambulance stationed at Cwmdu.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

The Clinic is situated at the rear of
the old Town Hall, Crickhowell, and
is attended by the County Medical
Officer of Health and his assistant
Medical Officers, and by Nurse J. Silk,
the Health Visitor.
(Crickhowell 208)

WELFARE:

The District Welfare Officer,
Mr. Verley Rees, has an office in
Bailey Street, Brynmawr, and also
attends at offices in Crickhowell
and Gilwern. The Breconshire County
Council have facilities for Part III
Accommodation under the National
Assistance Act at Cockcroft House,
Hay, and Crawshay House, Brynmawr.
(Brynmawr 254)

ISOLATION HOSPITAL:

Infectious diseases requiring
hospitalisation are admitted to
Alt-yr-Yn Isolation Hospital,
Newport, Mon.

SECTION C.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFICATIONS.

The following cases, other than Tuberculosis, were notified during the year 1964:-

<u>Diseases.</u>	<u>Number of Cases.</u>
Measles.	199
Whooping Cough.	14
Scarlet Fever.	7
Shigella Stanley.	1
Gastro-Enteritis.	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

A schedule of new cases and removals from the Register is given below.

<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Removals from Register.</u>			
<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>		<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	1	0	0	2	4	0	0

Number of cases remaining on Register 31st December, 1964.

<u>Respiratory.</u>			<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>		
M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
16	12	28	2	2	4

SCHOOLS.

No schools were closed during the year 1964, in consequence of infectious diseases.

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER.

The South-East Breconshire Water Board are responsible for the public water supplies in this Council's area.

The Council's area has a piped water supply to all centres of population served mainly from local springs harnessed to small local reservoirs. The supplies to Llangenny, Glangrwyney, Crickhowell (part), Gilwern (part) and Blackrock are chlorinated. These are now sampled regularly by the Water Board, but, as in the past, bacteriological results vary considerably due to the catchment areas frequently being unfenced agricultural ground. However, the Water Board are actively pursuing their comprehensive scheme to harness their three main sources to a large grid distribution system that will supply an adequate and pure water to all areas, and so dispense with the present local springs which can be doubtful and poor in yield.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER SAMPLES.

PUBLIC SUPPLIES.

Supply.	Satisfactory.	Slight Contamination.	Heavy Contamination.
Clydach (Blackrock)	1	-	-
Clydach (Quarry, Main Road)	1	-	-
* Crickhowell (Ffynnonau)	2	-	-
* Crickhowell (Wern)	2	-	-
Gilwern (Brunant)	-	1	-
Gilwern (Hydram)	2	-	-
Gilwern (Maesgwartha)	-	1	-
* Glangrwyney	1	-	-
Llanbedr	-	1	-
Llangattock (Cwmonney)	-	1	-
Llangattock (Tyle)	1	-	-
* Newport	1	-	-
Tretower	1	-	-
* Denotes a chlorinated supply.			
<u>PRIVATE SUPPLIES.</u>	3	11	13

The reports on samples of water from the public supplies are forwarded to the South-East Breconshire Water Board for their information and action.

ESTIMATED POPULATION SUPPLIED BY A PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

Estimated total.	7,880 (Reg. Gen. estimate for 1964.
Estimated population supplied into the houses.	6,797
Estimated population supplied by standpipes.	30
Estimated total population supplied.	6,827
Estimated population without a public piped water supply.	1,053

This figure includes
300 for Cwrt-y-gollen
Camp.

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Camp.

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300 for Cwrt-y-gollen
Camp.

Parish.	Estimated Total Population.	Estimated Population Supplied.		
		Piped Supply.	Standpipe.	Total.
Crickhowell.	1,498	1,441	Nil.	1,441
Cwmdu.	722	381	26	407
Llanbedr.	227	54	Nil.	54
Llangynidr.	497	411	Nil.	411
Llangattock.	809	674	Nil.	674
Llangenny.	650	582	Nil.	582 Includes 300 for Cwrt-y-goll Camp.
Llanelly.	3,409	3,254	4	3,258
Partrishow.	68	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
TOTALS.	7,880	6,797	30	6,827

RODENT CONTROL.

A full time Rodent Operator is employed by the Council and he has carried out the following treatments during the year:-

Private Dwellings.....	393
Business Premises.....	28
Schools.....	4
Sewerage Systems.....	Regular Treatment.
Refuse Tips.....	" "
Brooks in Villages.....	" "
Farms in the area surveyed and treated.	

The Report of treatments carried out has been forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under the Prevention of Damage by Pest Act, 1949.

In spite of farm surveys, and the offer of treatment under Contract, the response has been poor and only twelve farms were continually treated under Contract.

Contracts have also been signed for Cwrt-y-gollen Military Camp, Tymawr School, Tymawr School Farm and Elvicta Handtools Factory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The existing sewerage schemes continue to operate satisfactorily and there have been no major breakdowns or any extensive repair. Routine sampling by the Usk River Authority reveals unsatisfactory samples from certain of the treatment works and the River Authority are in consultation with your Officials in an effort to find a solution to this problem.

The maintenance carried out at the treatment works is not in question, the poor effluent being due to mechanical failure of the dosing syphon, often due to the action of children, or the fact that the Works are overloaded. This latter cause is evident at Aberbaiden, Danycoed and Llangynidr, and the River Authority appreciate that your proposed sewerage schemes will solve the troubles at these locations.

Crickhowell effluents are only borderline and samples have been taken throughout the Works to ascertain at which point or points the stage of treatment is not adequate. These Works have little spare accommodation and any large development in the Crickhowell area may well necessitate an extension of the treatment plant.

Proposed schemes have been frustratingly delayed during the year, but it is hoped to see action in Bwlch, Llangynidr and Clydach this coming year.

Clydach scheme should be the first to commence with an enlargement of the Aberbaiden Sewage Works as the first stage.

Bwlch and Llangynidr areas are under discussion with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government as they wish to be sure that a joint works is not preferable to the Council's existing proposal of separate works.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS.

Regular maintenance and sludge removal, by pumping with the Wickham Towed Diesel Pump, has been carried out at the treatment plants situated at the following Housing Estates:-

Penallt, Penllwyn, Danycoed (3 tanks), St. Michael's Close, Groesffordd, Glasfryn Terrace and also the Village of Llanbedr.

The treatment plants at Glangrwyney and Llangenny are pumped out and the sludge taken away by Contractors' Tanker at three monthly intervals. This was arranged to prevent smell nuisance to occupiers of houses in the locality.

Daily maintenance has been given to the two larger public sewage works at Crickhowell and Gilwern, and to the eleven electrically operated sewage pumps in the area.

The pumps have been given regular inspection by the Insurance Company Inspectors and their reports have been satisfactory.

PUBLIC CLEANSING - REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The general scavenging of the area has operated satisfactorily with the lorry travelling some 7,500 miles and carrying away 12,000 cubic yards of refuse to the tips at Crickhowell and Gilwern.

In May the Council put into operation a Shelvoke & Drewry 20 cubic yard capacity vehicle and this has been a great success. Apart from reduction in dust at loading times, the compression of the refuse enables longer journeys before returning to the refuse tip for emptying, and the weekly mileage has dropped from 190 miles to 120 miles.

The whole of the district is now collected on a once per week system, with cafes, hotels, fish shops etc., being collected twice per week if the premises are conveniently situated for this collection. The average daily collection being about 500 premises.

The regular treatment of the tip faces with an insecticide powder, applied by a "blower", continues to give an excellent result in the reduction of any fly or wasp nuisance.

Continuous control of rat infestation is carried out at both Tips.

The 1964 Anti-Litter Campaign was again supported by the Council by the display and issue of anti-litter posters to shops, hotels and schools, and the stationing of more litter baskets and bins in the area.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

FOOD CONDEMNED AND VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED.

The following goods, were on inspection, found to be unfit and were voluntarily surrendered:-

- 22 tins Tomatoes.
- 11 tins Pears.
- 10 tins Corned Beef.
- 8 tins Oranges.
- 9 tins Meat.
- 8 tins Pilchards.
- 6 tins Stewed Steak.
- 6 tins Spaghetti.
- 4 tins Tomato Juice.
- 5 tins Soup.
- 3 tins Peaches.
- 4 tins Oranges.
- 2 tins Orange Juice.
- 1 tin Grapefruit Segments.
- 1 tin Fruit Salad.
- 2 jars Pickled Cabbage.
- 1 jar Beetroot.
- 1 jar Fish Paste.
- 1 tin Rice Pudding.
- 12 pkts Semolina.
- 14lbs. 5ozs. Cooked Ham.
- 2 cartons Dessert Figs.

ICE CREAM.

Thirty nine premises are now registered for the sale of ice cream under the Food and Drugs Act.

The following new registration was granted during the year:-

Mr. W.H. Shellard, Bryn-Nant Stores, Crickhowell.

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The above Act called for registration of all those premises where persons are employed, and the necessary registration forms were distributed, collected and copies forwarded to the Fire Authority.

The end of the year registration were as follows:-

Offices.	7
Retail Shops.	20
Wholesale Shops.	-
Catering Establishments.	6
Fuel Storage Depots.	-
TOTAL.	33

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Inspections are now being carried out to ascertain that all the provisions of the Act are covered.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND KNACKER'S YARD.

There are no licensed slaughterhouses or public abattoirs, within the area of this Authority.

Slaughtering occurs within neighbouring districts where facilities are adequate, and this Council did contribute a proportion of the cost of a fully qualified Meat Inspector at Brynmawr Slaughterhouse. The latter premises have now been modernised and a charge made for meat inspection.

The Knacker's Yard of Mr. J. Davies, Tredegar, situated at Gilwern, has been regularly inspected and found to be efficiently and hygienically operated with full records maintained.

SURVEYS AND INSPECTIONS.

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during the year 1964:-

Detailed house inspections.....	455.
Public Health Acts.....	453.
Food.....	15.
Factories.....	19.
Complaints investigated.....	69.
Scavenging investigations.....	32.
Drainage investigations.....	214.
Water supply investigations.....	45.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Housing conditions continue to improve with the installation of modern amenities to old houses with the aid of improvement grants.

In the twelve months covered by this report twenty improvement grants were approved, being fourteen Discretionary Grants and six Standard Grants.

Standard Grants were introduced in 1959, and following is a comparison of grants approved over the past twelve years:-

	Discretionary Grants.	Standard Grants.	Total.
1953	1	-	1
1954	12	-	12
1955	21	-	21
1956	13	-	13
1957	15	-	15
1958	14	-	14
1959	19	2	21
1960	13	1	14
1961	15	5	20
1962	14	13	27
1963	16	7	23
1964	14	6	20

PLANNING AND BYELAW APPLICATIONS.

For the twelve months ending 31st December, 1964,
the following applications were made:-

196 Applications for Planning Approval.
222 Applications for Byelaw Approval.

NOTICES SERVED,

Informal.		Statutory.	
Served.	Complied with.	Served.	Complied with.
16	12	2	2

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

Details of the routine inspection at the sixteen
factories in the area are contained on separate Ministry
forms.

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